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INFO RUEHZJ/HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY 0001
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 0044
RUEHJI/AMCONSUL JEDDAH PRIORITY 0005
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA SZ DEC 0241
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0204

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAKU 001806

SIPDIS

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DEPT FOR DRL/MLGA, IO/RHS AND EUR/CARC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/12/2016
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [KTIA](#) [SU](#) [UN](#) [IS](#) [AJ](#)
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL'S
SPECIAL SESSION ON SUDAN

REF: STATE 195763

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Jason P. Hyland per 1.4 (b,d).

¶1. (SBU) ADCM delivered ref demarche to Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Mammadgulyev on December 11. Mammadgulyev said that, according to his information, the EU and Africa groups were consulting in Geneva today, December 11, and that Azerbaijan supported the two groups' efforts to find a compromise on the resolution. In Azerbaijan's view, the Human Rights Council (HRC) should adopt resolutions that will result in concrete, positive improvements to the specific human rights problem. As such, Mammadgulyev continued, the Human Rights Council should adopt resolutions that have the support of all parties to the problem, and are not one-sided. "How could a resolution on Sudan be effective if it does not have the support of the Government of Sudan?" Mammadgulyev asked. For this reason, Azerbaijan was working within the OIC to try to find a compromise between the EU and Africa groups.

¶2. (C) Noting that Azerbaijan had denied that atrocities were taking place in Darfur (reftel), ADCM pressed Mammadgulyev on Azerbaijan's purported even-handed approach. Mammadgulyev admitted that, although Azerbaijan strives to exert a moderating influence within the OIC, it does not always succeed. In the case of Azerbaijan's recent intervention at the Human Rights Council, Mammadgulyev said that the GOAJ had adopted the OIC's line. "We are the chair of the OIC Foreign Ministers Conference," Mammadgulyev said, "What do you expect us to do?" (UK and German colleagues who demarched Mammadgulyev earlier on the Sudan resolution told us that they received a far less diplomatic response; Mammadgulyev bluntly told them that Azerbaijan would vote with the OIC, without trying to argue that Azerbaijan was playing a moderating role within the OIC.)

¶3. (C) Drawing on reftel's Israel-specific points, ADCM noted that to date, the HRC has addressed only issues pertaining to Israel. If Azerbaijan truly seeks a balanced approach that ensures the support and cooperation of all parties to a conflict, how could Azerbaijan support the Human Rights Council's anti-Israeli resolutions? Mammadgulyev responded that Azerbaijan has good relations with Israel but has certain obligations as Chair of the OIC Foreign Ministers Conference. He said that although Azerbaijan seeks to play a moderating role within the OIC, it faces severe pressure from Iran and Pakistan, which promote a more aggressive tack on Israeli-Palestinian issues. Mammadgulyev said Azerbaijan recognizes that the resolutions on the Israeli-Palestinian

conflict passed by the HRC will not be implemented, and these resolutions are not the "step-by-step, constructive approach" that Azerbaijan would prefer to see the HRC adopt. Nevertheless, Mammadgulyev repeated, Azerbaijan has certain obligations to the OIC and relies on the OIC for "big support" on issues related to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. ADCM cautioned that if the HRC continued in this anti-Israeli vein, it will prove itself an ineffective, politicized body - exactly the opposite of Azerbaijan's stated goal for the new organization. She urged Azerbaijan to keep this in mind as it weighed the Sudan resolution.

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